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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,146	01/13/2005	Klaus-Dieter Hammer	2901886-000022	2776
84331 7590 12/29/2009 Baker Donelson Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC 555 Eleventh Street, NW, Sixth Floor Washington, DC 20004				
EXAMINER				
KASHNIKOW, ERIK				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/29/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,146

Applicant(s)

HAMMER ET AL.

Examiner

ERIK KASHNIKOV

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/11/09 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9 and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (EP 0 190 630) in view of Krallmann et al. (CA 2,292,983).

4. In regards to claims 1, 2, 14, 15 and 21 Smith teaches that a preferred antimicrobial agent for use in sausage casings are lower alkyl (C₁-C₇) esters of p-hydroxybenzoic acid (page 13 middle paragraph). Smith teaches that polyhydric alcohols such as glycerin (also known as glycerol) may be used in concentrations of up to 15% by weight of liquid (bottom of page 11 to top of page 12). While Smith is silent

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with regards to the effect the glycerin has on the viscosity, as it is the same material as preferred by Applicants it would necessarily have the same properties, i.e. being a viscosity increasing component.

5. In regards to claims 3-5 and 16 Smith teaches that glycerin and propylene glycol can be added to the liquid used to pre-moisturize the foodstuff casing (last paragraph page 11 first paragraph page 12) While Smith is using this compound as a plasticizer the compound still retains its water reducing antimicrobial properties.

6. In regards to claims 6 and 7 Smith teaches that carboxy methyl cellulose, a derivative of cellulose may be added to the interior walls to act as a low temperature peeling aid (page 19 bottom paragraph).

7. In regards to claims 8 and 17-19 Smith teaches a process for production of foodstuff casings in which the casing is premoistened with a solution that contains an effective amount of the antimicrobial agent. The effective amount is defined as 0.2-0.5% by weight of the liquid (page 9 first paragraph). Smith also teaches that in the preferred embodiment of the invention, that propylene glycol is present in amounts of 0-10% by weight of the liquid (page 9 first paragraph). This gives a range of 0.2-10.5% for the antimicrobial agents which completely covers Applicant's range.

8. In regards to claim 9 Smith teaches in his examples that the solutions are applied in one aqueous step (pages 20-23). This step involves soaking the casings in a bath, which would cause the coating to go on to both the inner and outer surface.

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9. In regards to claims 13 and 20 Smith teaches that his invention relates to ready to fill pre-moistened food casings with an antimicrobial nature and specifically points out the fact that sausage casings may be made this way (page 10 bottom paragraph).
10. While Smith et al. teach multilayer tubes and antimicrobial agents, they are silent regarding the use of polyamides as the inner and outer layers of the sausage casing.
11. Krallmann et al. teach multilayer polyamide-based tubular film conditioned in ready to fill form (page 1 first paragraph).
12. In regards to claim 1 Krallmann et al. teach that the inner and outer surface of their tubular film are comprised of polyamides (page 3 lines 20-22), and that said polyamide film may include an antimicrobial agent (page 3a line 13). Krallmann et al. further teach that the polyamide layers can absorb 6% weight of an aqueous solution (example 2).
13. In regards to claims 1 and 22 Krallmann et al. teach the use of triglyceride mixtures to act as a lubricant. While Krallmann et al. are silent with regards to the specific triglycerides being used one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that non-synthetic triglycerides are natural oils, and as such the term triglyceride mixtures while not specific would necessarily be comprised of either a natural oil (non-synthetic form of triglyceride) or a synthetic form of triglyceride. While Krallmann et al. are silent with regards to the effect the triglycerides have on the viscosity, as it is the same material as preferred by Applicants it would necessarily have the same properties, i.e. being a viscosity increasing component.

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14. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to modify the casing of Krallmann with the casing of Smith et al. because the casing of Smith which has the ability to be stored indefinitely without the formation of molds (page 8 first paragraph), would benefit from the casing of Krallman which has the ability to retain elevated consistency in diameter during the filling process and reliable machinability of the casing (page 3 lines15-17).

15. Claims 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (EP 0 190 630) in view of Krallmann (CA 2,292,983) in further view of Quinones (US 6,183,826).

16. As stated above Smith and Krallmann et al. teach a ready to fill foodstuff casing, which contains an antimicrobial agent as well as carboxy methyl cellulose added to the interior walls. However Smith and Krallmann et al. are silent regarding spraying the solution containing the antimicrobial agent onto the foodstuff casing.

17. In regards to claims 10 and 11 Quinones et al. teach that it is common in the art to coat the casings, especially the inner side of the casing, using a spray during the shirring process (column 7 line 54 – column 8 line 9).

18. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of producing casings of Smith and Krallmann et al. with the method involving spray of Quinones et al. because it provides an economical and fast way to lubricate the casing and to promote high speed shirring (column 2 lines 5-11).

Response to Arguments

19. In regards to Applicant's arguments regarding the coating on the inside and outside of the Krallmann et al. reference, its is pointed out that the rejection has been changed wherein Smith, which is now the primary reference, teaches coating the inner and outer layer. Therefore Krallman is not being used to teach the coating process, or the fungicide, but is instead being used to the inner and outer layer composition.

20. Examiner notes that while Krallmann and Quinones do not disclose all the features of the present claimed invention, they are used as teaching reference, and therefore, it is not necessary for this secondary reference to contain all the features of the presently claimed invention, *In re Nievelt*, 482 F.2d 965, 179 USPQ 224, 226 (CCPA 1973), *In re Keller* 624 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871, 881 (CCPA 1981). Rather this reference teaches a certain concept, and in combination with the primary reference, discloses the presently claimed invention. If the secondary reference contained all the features of the present claimed invention, it would be identical to the present claimed invention, and there would be no need for secondary references.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIK KASHNIKOW whose telephone number is (571)270-3475. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00PM EST (Second Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Erik Kashnikow
Examiner
Art Unit 1794

/Rena L. Dye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794